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U.S. Department of Justice

Drug Enforcement Administration

OCA FILE

CGA

Rep Hughes
OCA-Noriega

Washington, D.C. 20537

SEP 9 1988

Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

In recent hearings the Administration was seriously criticized for not sufficiently coordinating our efforts and intelligence in the situation involving Panama's General Noriega. Congressman Hughes is conducting further hearings on this issue and the balance between law enforcement and national security interests. During hearings on July 12, 1988, it was necessary for me to testify that the CIA had not provided me any substantial intelligence on General Noriega's drug trafficking activities.

A key point in the hearing was the assertion that former National Security Adviser John Poindexter had visited General Noriega in 1985 and had told him to "clean up his act." This message was reportedly delivered based on a CIA summary of Noriega's drug related activities. I believe that it is in the interests of both agencies that I be provided the opportunity to review the CIA holdings on any drug related intelligence on General Noriega.

Further, a careful review must be made to determine if Mr. Poindexter did in fact have a report and did he actually discuss drug activity with the General as alleged. I am concerned of the potential impact of these records, if they exist, on the future trial of Noriega in the U.S.

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Our Chief Counsel, Dennis Hoffman, is DEA's action officer and can be reached at 633-1276.

Sincerely,

Jack Lawn

John C. Lawn
Administrator

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